

REMARKS

In the Office action dated September 9, 2005, claims 5, 6, 9 – 15, 19, 20, and 23 – 27 were withdrawn from consideration, claims 1, 16 – 18, 21, and 22 were rejected, and claims 2 – 4, 7, and 8 were objected to. In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7 canceled claims 2 and 9 – 27 and hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below-provided remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2 – 4, 7, and 8 are deemed to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled. In view of the amendment, Applicants assert that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

II. Withdrawn Claims 5 and 6

Claims 5 and 6 as filed were dependent on claim 2. Applicants have amended claim 5 to depend from claim 1 in view of the amendment to claim 1. Applicants request that claims 5 and 6 be reconsidered in view of amended claim 1.

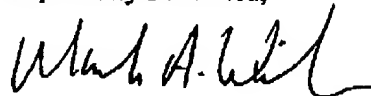
III. Common Ownership

Applicants confirm that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered herein were made.

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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment and Response to Office Action